

Gateway Clean Air Program Public Report

GCAP benefits public health and the environment by identifying vehicles that are polluting the air. The program is also a valuable resource to vehicle owners, offering useful information about obtaining effective repairs.

Today's vehicles are complex and high-tech. GCAP invests in the community by supporting relevant emissions-related training, ensuring that technicians maintain affiliations and credentials and are able to repair vehicles effectively.

GCAP uses advanced technology to help the State of Missouri achieve its clean air goals. From On-Board Diagnostics and RapidScreen, to accurate, efficient tailpipe testing – GCAP offers an array of vehicle emissions test procedures and enhanced customer services.

ESP Missouri Inc. operates GCAP stations and is a subsidiary of US-based Environmental Systems Products, an international leader in vehicle safety and emissions testing.

What Missourians are saying about the Gateway Clean Air Program:

“The main benefit of the emissions testing program is the improved health of our citizens. Without the testing program, our region would have the equivalent of 11 large factories or 2 million automobiles spewing toxic chemicals into our air for all to breathe.”

- Dr. Mario Castro, President, American Lung Association of Eastern Missouri;
St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Suburban Journals, Feb. 2004

“Emissions testing has been a success” and is “a key part of Missouri's plan.”

- St. Louis Post-Dispatch editorial from Feb. 1, 2004

“Emissions inspections have resulted in reducing pollutants in the air by hundreds of tons each year in the St. Louis area.”

- Ted Heisel, Executive Director, Missouri Coalition for the Environment; KMOX-AM interview, Jan. 27, 2004

"GCAP supports relevant emissions-repair training for the area's technicians. As a result, the repair community is better educated and trained to address the complex nature of emissions repairs."

- Mike Right, Vice President Public Affairs, AAA Missouri

“The Gateway Clean Air Program has proved to be very effective in reducing air pollution. The program has set the standard of repair at the highest mark and supports that standard by requiring and providing continuing education.”

- Ron Reiling, AAM, Executive Director, Alliance of Automotive Service Providers of Missouri

“Clean air is a good legacy to give our children. In a world with so many uncertainties, I hope we can at least give them this much.”

- Mike Smith, motorist, letter to the editor; Washington Missourian, Feb. 4, 2004



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AIR POLLUTION – A CONTINUING THREAT

The Gateway Clean Air Program (GCAP) is an important part of Missouri's federally approved clean air plan. GCAP helps to improve air quality, safeguard public health, protect the environment and ensure economic growth by reducing harmful vehicle emissions.

Air pollution and vehicle emissions are an ongoing public health risk in St. Louis. In fact, a 2003 report ranked St. Louis as having the eighth worst smog pollution level among cities with more than a million people. In April 2004, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced new air quality standards that more effectively protect public health – the 8-hour ozone standard. The air in and around St. Louis fails to meet the new standard. Nearly 3 million people are breathing this unhealthy air.

OZONE DANGERS

There are approximately 1.4 million vehicles registered in the GCAP emissions testing area and they are a major source of air pollution. More vehicles are traveling more miles – creating more vehicle exhaust than ever. Vehicle emissions contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, a prime ingredient of photochemical smog.



Ozone harms people's health. From coughing and wheezing to more serious problems, ozone sends people to hospital emergency rooms and causes premature deaths each year. Children, the elderly and people with respiratory problems are

among the most sensitive populations. Ozone aggravates asthma and a growing number of doctors and scientists believe ozone can actually cause asthma in some children. Research has even linked vehicle exhaust with childhood leukemia.

GCAP BENEFITS

There have been steady air quality gains since GCAP was established in April 2000. In 2003, for the first time, St. Louis and the four surrounding counties (Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Louis) met the old 1-hour standard for ozone – thanks in part to GCAP. But the new 8-hour ozone standard, which went into effect April 15, 2004, means there is much more work to be done. The economic benefits from improved air quality in the St. Louis region include continued flow of Federal Highway Funds, economic expansion and industrial growth.

GCAP QUICK FACTS

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Cited by the American Lung Association as one of 14 vehicle inspection programs in the United States that offer meaningful reductions in toxic air pollutants, some known to cause cancer in humans.
- Demonstrated reductions in carbon monoxide (43.3%), hydrocarbons (42.5%) and oxides of nitrogen (23.3%).
- Nearly 315,000 polluting vehicles identified since program start (April 2000-December 2004).
- Approximately 97% of all failing vehicles are repaired, registering a post-repair improvement by as much as 98%.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

- ESP employs more than 200 people throughout the St. Louis area.
- \$28 million investment by ESP in designing and implementing a model, state-of-the-art vehicle emissions testing program.
- Over 90% of revenue generated is dedicated to program operation and returned to the local economy.



PROGRAM DESIGN

GCAP is designed to maximize customer convenience and air quality benefits while minimizing overall cost. Some of the elements incorporated into the program to reach these goals include:

- First program in the United States to offer RapidScreen remote sensing technology to “clean screen” vehicles while on the road, allowing motorists to receive vehicle inspections without the need for visiting a testing station.
- Over 200,000 vehicle owners benefit from RapidScreen each year.
- Five RapidScreen vans rotate among 120 testing sites.
- On-Board Diagnostic testing for 1996 and newer vehicles.
- Conveniently located testing stations.
- Two newest model years are exempt.
- Nearly 700,000 tests conducted annually.
- Administering state agency: Missouri Department of Natural Resources (St. Louis Regional Office - 314-416-2115, Air Pollution Control Program, Jefferson City - 573-751-4817).
- Program and RapidScreen information at www.gatewaycleanair.com or 1-888-748-1AIR.



RapidScreen accurately and conveniently measures vehicle exhaust as motorists drive by during their normal daily activities.